

EMBREEA - NEW GENUS IN THE ORCHIDACEAE

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The 45 members of the genus *Stanhopea* Frost are remarkably homogeneous in the features of the plant with one exception: *S. rodigasiana* Claes ex Cogn. The species of *Stanhopea* have a single, petiolate, dark green leaf at the apex of a pyriform, dark green, pseudobulb, surrounded at the base by conduplicate chartaceous sheaths. The inflorescences are pendent from the base of the pseudobulb with two to fifteen, medium to large, fleshy flowers. *Stanhopea rodigasiana* has rectangular grey-green pseudobulbs, which are quadrate in cross section, grey-green leaves and elongate, single-flowered inflorescences. The flowers of *S. rodigasiana* differ from those of other species of *Stanhopea* in the dolabriform horns on each side of the mesochile, the posterior lobes of which are acute and the anterior lobes acuminate to aristate, and the bifid rostellum. The species of *Stanhopea* have falcate horns on the mesochile (or none) and an entire, spine-like rostellum.

I propose that the single species which is aberrant in the genus, with several significant discordant features, warrants recognition by placement in a separate genus.

*Embreea* Dodson, gen. nov.

Generis *Stanhopeae* Frost affine sed pseudobulbis subquadratis unifoliatis, foliis carnosis canovirescentibus, inflorescentia uniflora, cornibus mesochilii dolabriformibus, lobo antico acuminato lobo postico acuto et rostello bifurcato differt.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honor of Mr. Alvin Embree who has been very supportive of my studies of *Stanhopea*.

TYPE: *Claes* s.n. (BR).

This is a monotypic genus of northwestern Colombia and southeastern Ecuador.

*Embreea rodigasiana* (Claes ex Cogn.) Dodson, comb. nov.

*Stanhopea rodigasiana* Claes ex Cogn, Chronique Orchid enne 134. 1898.

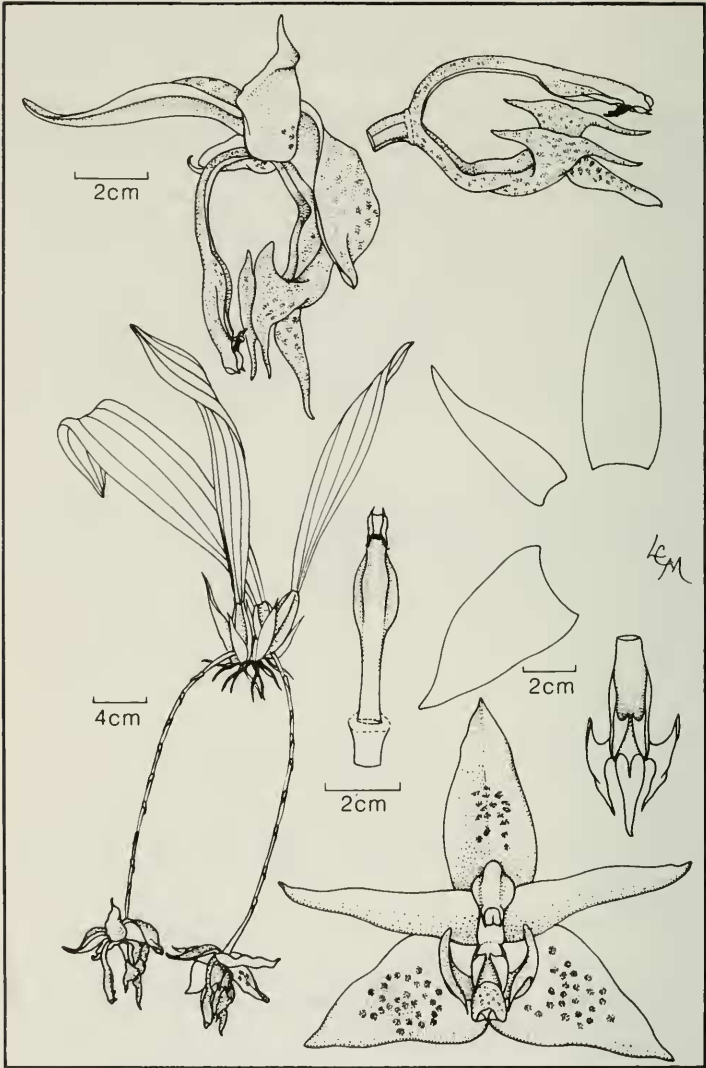
TYPE: COLOMBIA: ANTIOQUIA: *Claes* s.n. (HOLOTYPE: BR: ISOTYPE: K).

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS SEEN: COLOMBIA: EL VALLE: La Elsa, km 65 old road Cali-Buenaventura, alt. 800 m, 22 June 1965, *Dodson & Hills 3141a* (SEL); ECUADOR: ZAMORA-CHINCHIPE: Region of Gualaquiza, *Embree* s.n. (SEL).

DISTRIBUTION: Western Colombia and southern Ecuador on both sides of the Andes.

This unusual species is usually considered to belong to the genus *Stanhopea*, but the plant is light green, the rostellum bifid and the horns of the lip hatchet-shaped. The species has been known only from the Choc  of western Colombia but has been recently collected on both sides of the Andes in southern Ecuador.

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EMBREEA RODIGASIANA (Claes. ex Cogn.) Dodson